



# **2009 VA/DoD Sharing Conference**

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## **Success Stories on Sharing: Clinical Applications Hemodialysis & Neurosurgery**

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# Outline

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- **A Short History**
- **Writing PDs and Recruiting Staff**
- **Integrating Operations**
- **Sourcing and Procuring Equipment**
- **Reimbursement / Workload**
- **Establishing Performance Monitors**
- **Advancing the Model**



# **Short History of Joint Venture**

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- **Origin: 1993 closure of Martinez VAMC**
- **VA operated Med/Surg unit at DGMC**
- **Jointly staffed Inpt Psych unit at DGMC, no 5150**
- **'88 & '95 BRAC - Mather AFB & McClellan AFB**
  - **VA opens Sacramento (Mather) VAMC & McClellan OPC**
  - **DGMC opens satellite clinic within VA McClellan**
- **New Reimbursement Methodology**
  - **Reciprocal rates: fair and equitable**
- **Win-win spirit and open negotiation**
- **Joint Incentive Fund (JIF) Opportunities**



# **Writing PDs and Recruiting Staff**

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- **Start Early!**
- **Get help! You don't have to be the SME**
- **Hemodialysis**
  - **USAF: M-W-F; VA: T-Th-Sa**
  - **Integration occurred after two years of operation**
  - **Staff and patients fully integrated**
- **Neurosurgery**
  - **VA staff integrated in ICU, Surgical Unit and OR**
  - **Air Force and VA staff operate NS Clinic in VA facility**



# Integrating Operations

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- **The Joint Commission**
- **And who's the host?**
  - **Existing versus new programs**
- **Credentialing**
- **Tasking complicated by staffing integration**
- **Keep it patient centered**



# **Sourcing and Procuring Equipment**

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- **Joint Dialysis Unit**
  - Relocated to old CCU; expanded to 10 chairs
  - Acid Loop System -improved employee safety
  
- **Neurosurgery**
  - Brain Lab: JIF funded equipment advanced the complexity of Neurosurgical work at DGMC
  - Safe Patient Handling—multiple funding options



# Reimbursement/Workload

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- **Hemodialysis**
  - **Supplies (significant expense)**
  
- **Neurosurgery**
  - **Lease rate on shared space (75% BOMA)**
  - **Focus: bartering staff for surgical procedures**
  
- **Business Planning**
  - **VA patients captured**
  - **Meets DoD business plan goals**
  
- **Plan on creative workarounds!**



# **Establishing Performance Monitors**

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- **Establish accurate and comparable community costs**
- **Projected Caseload**
- **Quality/Patient Satisfaction**
- **Monitor staff turnover and backfills**
- **Reduction in wait time for VA consults, surgical procedures and second opinions**
- **Enhance medical readiness capability of DoD surgeons, nursing staff, anesthesia staff and medical technicians**





# Advancing The Model



- **Hemodialysis provided:**
  - **Access:** significant increased services available to Veterans and DoD Beneficiaries alike
  - **Top notch Quality of Care;** beyond that available in the community
  - **Patient satisfaction is unsurpassed**
  - **New state of the art system opening Dec 2009**
- **Neurosurgery provided:**
  - **Truest success realized in staff/patient integration**
  - **Creative reimbursement methodology to capture workload; low impact on business ops**
  - **Access:** Significant reduction in wait times for VA and minimized impact of deployments on DoD